



St Francis of Assisi

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As we approach the Third Sunday of Lent, Luke's Gospel ([Lk 9:28-36](#)) reminds us to listen to Jesus. In fact, God declares it. In this well-known account of the Transfiguration of the Lord, Jesus has a direct experience of God's Presence. The disciples present: Peter, John and James, witnessed this encounter, even though they were weighed down with sleep. However, this time they do not fall asleep, instead they are witness to what occurs and are engulfed by the cloud in which God declares Jesus is His son, the Chosen, and that we are to 'Listen to Him'.

It is our task now to 'listen to Him'; words which mean, "incline the ear of your heart and listen to the Lord who speaks in multitudinous ways and situations". This is real listening. It runs against the culture of mobile phones, and all the other technological gadgets that compete for our attention all day every day. It is a challenge to really listen to someone who wants to be heard. And therefore it is a challenge to listen to the Lord speaking to us in our daily life: through the Scriptures, in the Liturgy of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, in my Brothers and Sisters and their joys and sorrows.

This does not mean that we have to wait for God to surprise us, as he surprised the three disciples. We can put ourselves in a position where we can open our eyes and change our perspective. Take some time this week to slow down and look for God's presence. Maybe you could take a walk and immerse yourself in the beauty of nature, or visit a church and sit before the Blessed Sacrament. Or just close your eyes, and picture Jesus sitting next to you. No matter how you do it, know that the Lord is near you. Nothing makes Him happier than when one of His children "wakes up"!

Pray... *"Holy Spirit, I am sleepy. Wake me up to God's presence. I want to be fully in touch with you today."*

WORKING BEE
SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
9AM - 12PM
ALL WELCOME

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO COME ALONG AND
LEND A HAND WITH SOME GENERAL CLEANING AND GARDENING. IF
YOU HAVE ANY GARDENING EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD BE
USEFUL ON THE DAY PLEASE BRING IT ALONG.

Good Shepherd Mass Times

Saturday: 8am, 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am, 6pm
Weekday: Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri 6am, 9am
Spanish: Sat 7.30pm
Vietnamese: Sunday 10.45am



NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

All school newsletters, school events via the parent calendar and notes sent home are accessible on our website:

<http://www.stfrancisglendenning.catholic.edu.au>

the school communication app SKOOLBAG is also worth downloading. This app can be downloaded on any smartphone.

If you would like the newsletter automatically emailed to you each week all you need to do is subscribe through our website. Click the **‘Subscribe to Our Newsletter’** at the bottom of the home page on the above website and enter your details.

WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE TICKETS

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is fundraising for World Youth Day 2016. Raffle tickets were sent home a couple of weeks ago. There are great prizes on offer including a car. Raffle tickets are \$2 per ticket or \$20 per book. All monies raised from selling these raffle tickets will go directly to sending a teacher from Good Shepherd School, as a pilgrim to World Youth Day (Krakow, Poland) via the Philippines. Raffle tickets sold and unsold, need to be returned to the school office by Friday 4th March.

MORNING DROP OFF

In order to develop independence and social skills it is important that children are given the opportunity from the beginning of the day to play with children. This is especially important for our primary students. With this in mind, we ask all parents to drop their children, say farewell and leave in the morning.

SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS

Due to a change in the delivery cycle at Australia Post, there was a short delay in the delivery of school fee statements. All families should now have their school fee statements. If you did not receive your statement please contact the school office and we can give you a copy of your statement.

A reminder that school fees are due on the **7th March 2016.**

DATES COMING UP 2015

| | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| SAT | 20th Feb | Working Bee - 9am - 12pm |
| Fri | 26th Feb | Diocesan Swimming Blacktown |
| Fri | 4th Mar | WYD Raffle due. |
| Sun | 6th Mar | Catholic Schools Week commences |
| Wed | 9th Mar | P & F Group meets. 7pm |
| Fri | 11th Mar | School Cross Country Yrs 3 to 6 |
| Wed | 16th Mar | School Photos - ALL students must wear their sports uniform. |

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Wednesday 16th March

Photo envelopes were sent home today. The completed photo envelopes need to be returned to school **before** the actual photo day with the correct money enclosed. You can also order and pay for the photos online.

ALL children must wear their **FULL** sports uniform for the photos.

FAMILY PHOTOS (OPTIONAL)

Brother/sister photos will be taken on photo day. Pre-pay envelopes are available on request from the office. Use this envelope (or order online before the actual photo day) if you wish to place an order for a family photo of your children.
(Only those attending the school - no pre-schoolers)

SKOOL BAG APP—ABSENTEE NOTE

If you are a user of the Skoolbag App, you may have seen in the eForms section Absentee Note. Parents are able to use this to advise the school if their child is absent. The office staff will forward this to the appropriate class teacher.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF ICT & SOCIAL MEDIA FOR STUDENTS

Just a reminder to families to return the Responsible use of ICT & Social Media note. Parents would have received this at the Information sessions on Wednesday night. If you did not attend an information session and your child has not brought one home please contact the office to get a copy. It is important that you read this form with your children before signing and returning.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 2016

**THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN
AT SCHOOL ON THIS DAY**

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

At St Francis our staff work hard to ensure that we are catering for each students needs, abilities and interests. There are also many ways in which families can support their children to be prepared for learning at school each day. One important way is making school attendance a high priority in your family. It is essential that each student is at school on time and prepared for school to take advantage of every learning opportunity. Children who are at school on time settle into routines very effectively and become confident and in control of their day ahead. Some children can become anxious and stressed when they have missed the regular morning routines.

If your child is absent they must produce a note written by the parent / caregiver and signed by the parent / caregiver. You have seven days to produce the note or the absence or lateness will be formally recorded as unexplained. You may not be aware that when a student is late to school, a 'partial absence' is recorded on the roll. The class roll is a legal document and is monitored within the school and regularly audited by external agencies.

There are times that students will be sick and cannot attend school. This is understood. Ongoing lateness, however, and unexplained absenteeism places the students learning and wellbeing at risk. Our team of teachers support all students who are absent in various ways.

Legislation requires that if you have a planned absence, a written application must be lodged with the Principal before your child/ren are absent from school. With a change of legislation, there is more paper work that must be completed for absence. Families are discouraged from having family holidays during term time.

Please be aware that this communication is to promote wellbeing for all students and a culture of high expectations and success for all.

RESPECT AWARDS

KA Isabella Fernance
KS Taylor Noche
1B William Duff
1O Harlow Erceg
2C Kenzie Sciberras
2R Noah Winters
3A Georgene Ghneim
3B Billy Whyman
4B Mikko Tiongson
4C Isabella Alonso
5B Klarissa Papa
5W George Bou Mansour Narvaez
6D James Nacua
6S Nelson Lowa

ZONE SWIMMING

Yesterday 16 children represented St Francis at the zone swimming carnival. All our children were a credit to St Francis Primary School and competed with great skill and sportsmanship.

Seven children will go on to represent the Blacktown zone at the diocesan carnival to be held next week in individual races. Three out of our four relay teams will also go on to the diocesan carnival.

Thank you to all the parents who attended and to Ms Reardon who helped on the day with place keeping. What a great result!



PARKING BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL - CAR DROP OFF AND PICK UP BAY

A reminder to families that the Bus Bay out the front of school is used to "kiss and drop" your children in the morning. Please do not park in the Bus Bay and walk in. If you wish to walk your child in you will need to park elsewhere.

We are fortunate that there is parking available in the BP Service Station. Please ensure you only park in the marked areas and do NOT park at the petrol or air pump bays. No child is allowed to wait there for their parents in the afternoon. They must stay at school and be picked up at school.

Please be mindful of the new houses across the road from school when parking on the street and do not block their driveways when parking.

LAST FRIDAY THERE WAS AN INCIDENT IN THE RED ROOSTER CAR PARK WHERE A PARENTS CAR WAS HIT BUT NO DETAILS WERE LEFT. IF ANYONE SAW THIS INCIDENT COULD THEY PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.

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- ✓ Drama
- ✓ Show Group
- ✓ Private Lessons

Present this flyer to receive your first three lessons free*

*Free lessons can not be used for aerial, cheerleading or fitness.

Static Dance studios - Unit 2/7 Enterprise Drive, Glendenning NSW 2761
Phone: 02 9675 3256 - Matt Scerri: 0411 228 275 www.staticdancestudios.com.au

Present this coupon to receive a **10% DISCOUNT**

(Excludes specials, baby formula & prescriptions)

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2/670 Richmond Road, Glendenning NSW 2761
Ph 9626 1111 Fax 9626 9333

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